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# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION CORPORATION,

Plaintiff-Applicant,

v.

BERNARD L. MADOFF INVESTMENT SECURITIES LLC,

Defendant.

In re:

BERNARD L. MADOFF,

Debtor.

IRVING H. PICARD, Trustee for the Liquidation of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

MERITZ FIRE & MARINE INSURANCE CO., LTD.,

Defendant.

Adv. Pro. No. 08-01789 (SMB)

SIPA Liquidation

(Substantively Consolidated)

Adv. Pro. No. 11-02539 (SMB)

TRUSTEE'S PROFFERED
ALLEGATIONS PERTAINING TO
THE EXTRATERRITORIALITY
ISSUE AS TO MERITZ FIRE &
MARINE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

The Trustee, by his undersigned counsel, for his Proffered Allegations Pertaining to the Extraterritoriality Issue as to defendant Meritz Fire & Marine Insurance Co., Ltd. ("Meritz"), states:

- 1. The Trustee seeks to recover at least \$21,855,897 in subsequent transfers of BLMIS customer property made to Meritz by Fairfield Sentry Limited ("Fairfield Sentry") from August 2007 through September 2007.
- 2. BLMIS held customer accounts for numerous feeder funds ("Feeder Funds")—single-purpose investment funds that pooled their investors' assets to invest with BLMIS, capitalizing on its consistent returns and Madoff's willingness to forego remuneration—including Fairfield Sentry.
- 3. From November 1990 until Madoff's arrest in December 2008, Fairfield Sentry maintained direct customer accounts with BLMIS in New York. As detailed further below, Fairfield Greenwich Group ("FGG"), a *de facto* partnership based in New York, created, operated, and controlled Fairfield Sentry.
- 4. Defendant Meritz is a financial services group organized under the laws of South Korea with a registered address in Seoul, South Korea. Meritz intentionally sought to benefit from the U.S. markets and a U.S. investment strategy through its investment in Fairfield Sentry. BLMIS and Fairfield Sentry were both U.S.-based, and Meritz knowingly and intentionally relinquished all control over its investment to Fairfield Sentry and BLMIS, as Fairfield Sentry pooled investments and BLMIS made and executed investment decisions.

# I. THE TRANSFERS AND COMPONENT EVENTS OF THE TRANSACTIONS WERE PREDOMINANTLY DOMESTIC

5. As a part of a sophisticated financial network, Meritz knowingly directed funds to be invested with New York-based BLMIS through Fairfield Sentry, met and communicated with

Fairfield Sentry representatives in New York, submitted to the laws of New York in connection with its investment, and utilized a New York bank account to transfer funds. Meritz's relationship with Fairfield Sentry was centered in the United States, and the transfers and the component events of the transactions were comprised of predominantly domestic components.

# A. Meritz Knowingly Subscribed in Fairfield Sentry as a Means of Profiting from BLMIS in New York

- 6. In connection with its subscription in Fairfield Sentry, Meritz conducted sophisticated due diligence in New York on FGG, Fairfield Sentry, Madoff, and BLMIS. Meritz also received extensive access to information about FGG, Fairfield Sentry, and BLMIS through its nominal investment adviser and agent, Vantage Capital Pte. Ltd. ("Vantage"), a Singapore-based group.
- 7. Through this due diligence, at all relevant times, Meritz knew Fairfield Sentry invested virtually all of its assets with BLMIS. Meritz specifically intended to profit from the purported returns of Madoff's split-strike conversion strategy ("SSC Strategy") in the U.S. markets.
- 8. Meritz's due diligence was conducted in New York. In November 2006, Meritz's chief investment officer visited FGG's office in New York to meet with FGG representatives and conduct due diligence on Fairfield Sentry.
- 9. In July 2007, Meritz's general manager requested that Vantage arrange another meeting with FGG in New York, as well as a meeting with Madoff at BLMIS's New York offices and a meeting with the New York branch of Fairfield Sentry's administrator.
- 10. As further evidence of the New York-centered nature of its investment, Meritz also participated in conference calls with FGG management in New York discussing BLMIS,

Fairfield Sentry, and Madoff's SSC Strategy. Vantage arranged these conference calls with FGG employees in New York.

- 11. The U.S.-based nature of the transfers is clear and undeniable, and prior to the transfers at issue, Meritz knew the following facts:
  - In reality New York-based BLMIS was Fairfield Sentry's investment adviser.
  - New York-based BLMIS was the executing broker for Fairfield Sentry's investments, and BLMIS purportedly operated and executed Madoff's SSC Strategy on behalf of Fairfield Sentry.
  - The SSC Strategy purportedly involved the purchase of U.S. equities, U.S. options, and U.S. Treasury bills ("Treasurys") traded on U.S. exchanges, and the decisions regarding which U.S. securities to purportedly purchase were made by Madoff in New York.
  - BLMIS in New York had custody of at least 95% of Fairfield Sentry's investments.
  - BLMIS was a registered U.S. broker-dealer regulated by the SEC.
  - BLMIS's auditor was Friehling and Horowitz, CPA, P.C., a small audit firm located in New York.
  - Fairfield Sentry's entire economic purpose was to deliver money to and profit from BLMIS in New York.
- 12. BLMIS was at the center of the transactions at issue—Mertiz knew this and used Fairfield Sentry as a vehicle for investing with BLMIS.
- 13. Meritz ultimately redeemed from Fairfield Sentry, not because of concerns specific to Fairfield Sentry and FGG, but, as expressed in certain July 2007 emails, due to its concerns about Madoff and BLMIS's operations in New York.
- 14. New York-based BLMIS was the prime broker, custodian, and investment adviser, and maintained control over its Fairfield Sentry investments without independent oversight.

- 15. Meritz knew BLMIS was Fairfield Sentry's prime broker, custodian, and investment adviser. Meritz specifically identified BLMIS's ability to engage in fraud by excluding independent verification of its purported trades of U.S. stocks and options. Vantage relayed Meritz's concerns to FGG: "what if BLM[IS] . . . tell[s] lie[s] about the # of stocks, name and so on that [Fairfield] Sentry fund bought?"
- 16. In response, FGG's chief risk officer, Amit Vijayvergiya, acknowledged that Fairfield Sentry's administrator was not responsible for verifying the existence of assets in Fairfield Sentry's accounts at BLMIS.
- 17. During this July 2007 exchange, Vantage made clear that Meritz knew its investment was ultimately with BLMIS and not Fairfield Sentry, and Meritz's concerns about the safety of its investment with BLMIS were repeatedly communicated to FGG.

# B. Meritz Knowingly Submitted to New York Choice of Law, Jurisdiction, and Venue

18. By executing a Fairfield Sentry subscription agreement, Meritz submitted itself to New York choice of law and venue. Specifically, Meritz agreed "that any suit, action or proceeding . . . with respect to this Agreement and [Fairfield Sentry] may be brought in New York," and that Meritz "irrevocably submit[ted] to the jurisdiction of the New York courts with respect to any [p]roceeding." Meritz further agreed that the subscription agreement "shall be governed and enforced in accordance with the laws of New York, without giving effect to its conflict of laws provisions."

#### C. Meritz Utilized a New York Bank to Transfer Funds to Fairfield Sentry

- 19. Meritz utilized a New York bank account to transfer funds to Fairfield Sentry.
- 20. Meritz executed a subscription agreement in connection with its investment in Fairfield Sentry. This agreement stated that all money from Meritz be directed to a New York

HSBC Bank USA correspondent bank account for ultimate deposit in Fairfield Sentry's bank account. From Fairfield Sentry's bank account, the funds were deposited in BLMIS's account at JPMorgan Chase Bank NA in New York. In connection with subscribing funds to Fairfield Sentry, the Meritz Defendants directed funds to this New York HSBC Bank USA account.

# II. FAIRFIELD SENTRY'S PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS WAS IN NEW YORK

21. At all relevant times, Fairfield Sentry's principal place of business was in New York and Fairfield Sentry was a domestic resident.

#### A. The Genesis of the FGG De Facto Partnership

- 22. In 1988, Walter Noel and Jeffrey Tucker founded the FGG *de facto* partnership based in New York City. FGG created, managed, and marketed a variety of investment vehicles, the largest of which were Feeder Funds.
- 23. The FGG *de facto* partnership included: individual persons; U.S. corporations; foreign corporations; and investment vehicles created, managed, operated, and marketed from FGG's New York headquarters. Among the FGG investment vehicles were the three Feeder Funds—Fairfield Sentry, Greenwich Sentry, L.P. ("Greenwich Sentry"), and Greenwich Sentry Partners, L.P.—as well as the so-called currency funds, Fairfield Sigma Limited ("Sigma") and Fairfield Lambda Limited ("Lambda"). Sigma and Lambda received subscriptions in Euros and Swiss Francs respectively, converted the foreign currencies to U.S. dollars, and then invested all of the U.S. dollars in Fairfield Sentry.
- 24. FGG also included a number of administrative entities that purportedly provided management and back office support to the funds. These entities included: Fairfield Greenwich Limited ("FG Limited"), Fairfield Greenwich (Bermuda), Ltd. ("FG Bermuda"), Fairfield

Greenwich Advisors LLC ("FG Advisors"), and Fairfield International Managers, Inc. ("Fairfield International Managers").

### **B.** Fairfield Sentry

- 25. On October 30, 1990, FGG founding partners, Noel and Tucker, organized Fairfield Sentry under the International Business Company Act of the Territory of the British Virgin Islands ("BVI"), for the sole purpose of creating a fund to invest with Madoff. Noel and Tucker chose to organize Fairfield Sentry under BVI law in order to avoid U.S. taxation and enjoy tax free status in the BVI. Under BVI statutory law, Fairfield Sentry was prohibited from doing business with other BVI residents except for other entities organized under the International Business Companies Act.
- 26. Fairfield Sentry was a shell corporation present in the BVI solely on paper. From its inception until its liquidation, Fairfield Sentry had no employees and no office. It was operated almost entirely by FGG personnel based in New York ("FGG New York Personnel"). Its statutorily required registered address in the BVI was a post office box care of a local trust company owned and operated by a local law firm. The same post office box served as the registered address for hundreds of other investment vehicles unrelated to the FGG operations. The law firm operating the trust company and registered post office box addressed its statements for Fairfield Sentry services to FGG's New York headquarters.
- 27. Fairfield Sentry's operations, structure, agreements, and marketing materials all demonstrate that Fairfield Sentry's principal place of business was in the United States. Fairfield Sentry is currently in liquidation proceedings in the BVI and the United States.

### 1. Fairfield Sentry's Agreements with BLMIS Confirm Fairfield Sentry's Principal Place of Business was in the United States

- 28. When FGG opened Fairfield Sentry's BLMIS accounts, FGG made it clear Fairfield Sentry was operated from the United States and not the BVI. In November 1990, Tucker executed BLMIS account documents opening Fairfield Sentry's BLMIS account 1FN012 and options account 1FN069. In the account opening documents, Tucker listed Fairfield Sentry's address as the office address of Fairfield International Managers—a company jointly owned by Noel and Tucker—in Greenwich, Connecticut. Further, Tucker directed BLMIS to send all BLMIS account statements, trade confirmations, and correspondence to Fairfield International Managers' offices in Greenwich, Connecticut. In October 1992, Tucker opened a second Fairfield Sentry account at BLMIS, 1FN045, as well as a second options account, 1FN070. BLMIS sent Fairfield Sentry's account statements, trade confirmations, and correspondence for these accounts to the same Greenwich, Connecticut office. On January 29, 1998, FGG notified BLMIS to change Fairfield Sentry's address for all of its BLMIS accounts to FGG's New York headquarters.
- 29. After the original BLMIS account documents were executed by Tucker on behalf of Fairfield Sentry, FGG partners Tucker, Daniel Lipton, and Mark McKeefry—all located in FGG's New York headquarters—executed additional BLMIS account documents on behalf of Fairfield Sentry including: customer agreements, trade authorizations, options agreements, and Internal Revenue Service forms. In most instances, FGG listed Fairfield Sentry's address on these BLMIS account documents as FGG's New York headquarters.
- 30. The BLMIS customer agreements covering Fairfield Sentry's BLMIS accounts are governed by New York law and all disputes arising under the agreements must be resolved by mandatory arbitration in New York utilizing the laws of New York. All transactions under

Fairfield Sentry's BLMIS customer agreements were subject to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and to the rules and regulations of the SEC and Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Every BLMIS trade confirmation received and reviewed by FGG personnel on behalf of Fairfield Sentry identified BLMIS as a U.S. registered broker-dealer and a SIPC member regulated by the SEC.

### 2. FGG New York Personnel Controlled Fairfield Sentry's Relationship with Various Citco Entities

31. As the original directors of Fairfield Sentry, Noel and Tucker contracted with Citco Fund Services (Europe) B.V. ("Citco Fund Services") to provide Fairfield Sentry with backoffice administrative services such as coordinating subscription and redemption forms, maintaining Know Your Customer information, and serving as the independent party verifying the Net Asset Value of the Fairfield Sentry shares. Noel and Tucker also contracted Citco Global Custody N.V. ("Citco Custody") to nominally serve as the custodian of the Fairfield Sentry assets. In reality, BLMIS was the custodian inasmuch as all of the Fairfield Sentry assets were held in the BLMIS accounts. As a result, Citco Custody entered into a sub-custodian agreement with BLMIS. As a further part of the relationship with Citco Fund Services and Citco Custody, Noel and Tucker also opened bank accounts at Citco Bank Nederland, N.V. Dublin Branch ("Citco Bank Dublin"). FGG New York Personnel had final control of the Fairfield Sentry bank accounts and controlled all of Fairfield Sentry's relationships with the various Citco entities.

#### 3. FGG New York Personnel Managed Fairfield Sentry

32. At all relevant times, Fairfield Sentry was operated from FGG's New York headquarters. FGG New York Personnel monitored Fairfield Sentry's investments; managed Fairfield Sentry's relationship with BLMIS, Madoff, clients, and potential clients; created

marketing and performance materials for Fairfield Sentry; marketed Fairfield Sentry; performed administrative functions required by Fairfield Sentry; negotiated confidentiality agreements and other service provider contracts on behalf of Fairfield Sentry; directed investments into and out of BLMIS; and conducted various other due diligence and risk management activities. Until Fairfield Sentry's liquidation, FGG maintained Fairfield Sentry's books and records in New York.

33. FGG New York Personnel made and controlled all decisions regarding Fairfield Sentry's assets not invested with BLMIS. FGG New York Personnel also had final control of Fairfield Sentry's banking accounts, including Fairfield Sentry's accounts at Citco Bank Dublin. Even with the Citco entities' various roles, FGG New York Personnel made all ultimate operational decisions regarding Fairfield Sentry. From the outset of Fairfield Sentry's operations, FGG New York Personnel controlled and approved all subscriptions into and redemptions from the fund. From at least January 1, 2002, all Fairfield Sentry subscription agreements contained New York choice of law provisions, and provided for venue and jurisdiction for any disputes in New York.

### 4. Fairfield Sentry's Investors Knew They Were Investing in BLMIS

34. Fairfield Sentry's subscription agreements also incorporated its Private Placement Memoranda ("PPMs") by reference. Each Fairfield Sentry subscriber acknowledged receipt of the PPM. The original or later amended PPM's disclosed to the Fairfield Sentry investors that a minimum of 95% of its assets were: (1) deposited in its accounts at BLMIS in New York; (2) invested by BLMIS, an SEC-registered broker-dealer; (3) traded in accordance with Madoff's SSC Strategy; and (4) through BLMIS invested in U.S. S&P 100 Index securities and options or short-term U.S. Treasurys. Fairfield Sentry's PPM also disclosed to investors that BLMIS's

services were "essential to the continued operation of the Fund."

#### 5. BLMIS Was Fairfield Sentry's Investment Manager

- 35. Although FGG attempted to hide its manager, BLMIS served as the investment manager throughout the life of Fairfield Sentry. At the outset, Fairfield Sentry used Information Memoranda to solicit investments in the fund. The Information Memoranda listed Fairfield International Managers as Fairfield Sentry's investment manager for which it was paid a performance fee of 20% of the reported gains in Fairfield Sentry's BLMIS accounts. Despite Fairfield International Managers's reported role, Fairfield Sentry disclosed that all of Fairfield Sentry's assets were in discretionary brokerage accounts operated by BLMIS, which in reality made all of Fairfield Sentry's investment decisions.
- 36. In October 1997, Noel and Tucker agreed to merge FGG with Andrés Piedrahita's Littlestone Associates, which was a money management firm also located in New York City. Piedrahita is Noel's son-in-law. With the merger, Littlestone Associates' clients became FGG clients. In order to reflect the new ownership of FGG, Noel, Tucker, and Piedrahita formed FG Limited. FG Limited was formed under the laws of Ireland.
- 37. While FG Limited was formed under foreign law, it reported its principal place of business as FGG's New York headquarters, registered to do business in the State of New York, and listed its principal executive office as FGG's New York headquarters. Upon the formation of FG Limited, Fairfield International Managers assigned all of its management contracts with Fairfield Sentry and Greenwich Sentry to FG Limited. Following the assignment of the management contracts to FG Limited, FGG New York Personnel revised the Fairfield Sentry Information Memoranda to list FG Limited as Fairfield Sentry's investment manager, even

though all of Fairfield Sentry's assets remained in the discretionary brokerage accounts controlled by BLMIS.

- 38. In 2002, Noel, Tucker, and others from FGG approached Madoff to inform him FGG would be launching a new fund of funds. The new fund would be open to both U.S. and foreign investors and, as a result, FGG would form a new U.S. entity to be the investment adviser of the fund as well as other FGG operated funds, including the Feeder Funds and currency funds. Fearing greater SEC scrutiny, Madoff rejected the idea that a U.S.-based entity would serve in the role as the investment manager of the Feeder Funds and currency funds. As a result, FGG formed two new entities, FG Advisors and FG Bermuda.
- 39. In October 2003, FGG formed FG Advisors as a Delaware limited liability company. FG Advisors is a wholly owned subsidiary of FG Limited. At the same time, FGG formed FG Bermuda under Bermuda law as another wholly owned subsidiary of FG Limited. Upon the formation of FG Advisors and FG Bermuda, FG Limited assigned certain of its management contracts to both entities, including the investment advisory agreements for the three Feeder Funds, Fairfield Sentry, Sigma, Lambda, and Greenwich Sentry, to FG Bermuda. FG Limited remained the placement agent for the same funds.
- 40. In 2003, with FG Bermuda's entry into the FGG operations, FGG New York Personnel issued new PPMs which listed FG Bermuda as Fairfield Sentry's investment manager and removed all references to the discretionary accounts at BLMIS. The new PPMs also stated FG Limited would remain as Fairfield Sentry's Placement Agent and receive a portion of the management and performance fees paid to FG Bermuda. The same PPMs also disclosed that Fairfield Sentry would pay a percentage fee to FG Advisors for providing administrative services and incurring administrative costs.

- 41. Prior to 2006, while FG Bermuda purported to manage Fairfield Sentry's, Sigma's, Lambda's, Greenwich Sentry's, and Greenwich Sentry Partners' investments, it did not register as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.
- 42. In 2005 and 2006, the SEC conducted an investigation of BLMIS and its relationship to its Feeder Funds. While the investigation was ongoing, in an attempt to deflect further SEC inquiry, FG Bermuda registered as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. Following FG Bermuda's registration in April 2006, it was required to file Form 13Fs with the SEC that Mark McKeefry, FGG's New York-based general counsel, executed and submitted.
- 43. After its 2005 and 2006 investigation, the SEC determined that BLMIS, and not FG Bermuda, was the investment manager of Fairfield Sentry. Accordingly, the SEC required Fairfield Sentry to modify its investor communications and PPMs to properly disclose BLMIS as Fairfield Sentry's investment manager for the fund's assets held in the BLMIS accounts.
- 44. As originally operated, 100% of Fairfield Sentry's assets were in its BLMIS accounts. Beginning in 2003, Fairfield Sentry began investing up to 5% of its assets with other fund managers, all of whom were selected by FGG New York Personnel. FGG organized a number of so-called "seedling funds," with Fairfield Sentry's investment serving as the base. The seedling funds were operated and organized by FGG New York Personnel. Many of the seedling funds, in turn, invested part of their assets back into Fairfield Sentry.
- 45. The Trustee incorporates by reference the allegations of the Second Amended Complaint proffered in *Picard v. Fairfield Investment Fund*, *Ltd.*, Adv. Pro. No. 09-01239 (SMB) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y., filed June 26, 2015 as part of the Extraterritoriality Briefing).

Dated: June 26, 2015 New York, New York /s/ Thomas L. Long

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